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Quick Hits

This could be a "banner" year for local businesses.

Well, banner in the sense that the city's Downtown Development Authority is offering to place the name and logo of businesses on street banners that will be displayed on Jos. Campau between Caniff and Holbrook.

The banners have been popular in the past, and it's first-come, first-serve to get yours, so hurry up.

To display a banner for one year it costs \$275, and for three years it's only \$100 more at \$375. The cost includes a replacement banner if it gets damaged.

Orders must be completed by May 29. To reserve your banner call Kathy Angerer at (313) 876-7700, extension 326, or email her at hamtramckdda@gmail.com.

— **HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD** —

On the rocky road to citywide street repairs

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck got a taste on Friday of what's to come in repairing potholes.

The city tested out a different method in fixing potholes that seals in asphalt, starting on Charest from Holbrook to Evaline and then up to Gallagher and back to Holbrook.

"It's much better than cold patching," said Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works. "It's going to last longer and look better."

The city used the cold patching method in only the worst areas during the winter in order to wait to use this newer method.

For many residents it's been a long wait.

The pothole repairs coincide with a recent report submitted by an engineering company that ranks each street's condition, from one to 10, with "10" being the very best, as in brand new.

There will be some sections of streets that will require ripping out the concrete and repaving. One such spot is 200 feet worth of Goodson, which City Manager Katrina Powell estimated will cost \$80,200.

Ragsdale said he is reviewing the engineering study and will make his recommendations on how to proceed. No matter what, pothole repairs will start back up next week, he said.

Continued on page 2

Last Friday the city tested out a new way to fix potholes. Repairs will continue while a long-range plan is worked out for all of the city's streets.

Voters say 'no' to road repair tax

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters joined with voters statewide in rejecting a ballot proposal to raise the sales tax to fix roads.

Statewide, voters gave the proposal a thumping by 80 percent – a margin of disapproval that hasn't happened in 50 years, The Detroit News reported. In Hamtramck the margin of defeat was equally bad, by 75 percent.

Only 913 voters bothered voting on the proposal, one of the lowest turnouts in recent history.

Previous polls taken predicted the state proposal was going down by a wide margin.

If it had passed, Hamtramck would have seen almost an additional \$1 million in state revenue – something that would have secured the city's finances for many years.

But in various media reports voters had two reasons for turning it down: the funding mechanism was too complicated and the inability of legislators to come up with a plan earlier.

Legislators have been arguing for several years over how to fix the state's increasingly worsening roads, and even Republican legislators disagreed with Gov. Rick Snyder's attempts to come up with a plan.

Snyder, a Republican, had

Continued on page 4

Nick and Mario Lulgjuraj are once again investing in the city with a redevelopment project on Jos. Campau.

In business and development, it's a family affair

By Charles Sercombe

Last time we checked in with brothers Nick and Mario Lulgjuraj, they were building a new shopping strip at Caniff and Gallagher.

It was done in a modern urban design, which meant the building was up close to the sidewalk and not set back like you see in the suburbs.

That was several years ago and at the time it was a substantial investment. There was concern back then that having parking in the rear would work against the project but that doesn't seem to be the case.

Royal Kabob Restaurant

Continued on page 2

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On the rocky road to citywide street repairs

Cont. from front page

The immediate plan calls for concentrating on emergency lanes that the police and fire department use most of the time. A crew of part-time city workers will also do cold patching, said City Manager Katrina Powell. There will also be a long-range plan mapped out, she added. “The next step is to prepare a transportation asset

management plan and identify a five-year capital improvement program to submit to MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) for approval,” Powell said. “If approved, the city can transfer additional monies from the Major Road Fund to the Local Road Fund to do much needed repairs on our interior streets.”

Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modelmedia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

On Saturday, May 2, local dignitaries and Eastern Market Corporation officials gathered to celebrate the unveiling of Eastern Market Shed 5 in all its renovated glory. After Detroit mayor Mike Duggan and Sen. Debbie Stabenow took part in the pageantry of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, market-goers explored the renovated shed while Shed 5 vendors saw their patience rewarded.

Shed 5 stayed open and was host to its usual vendors during its three-year renovation. For all the dust and inconveniences vendors weathered during the various rounds of construction, the improvements made to Shed 5 should prove worth it.

The shed was built in 1981 and had seen few improvements since. Because of the recent renovations, Eastern Market Corporation believes that Shed 5 sets a new standard for regional food hubs.

"Shed 5 was functional

before the renovations, but now we can really brag about the shed," says Caroline Glidewell-Hoos, marketing and communications manager for Eastern Market Corporation. "For one thing, it will increase attendance in the winter. A lot of people don't realize we're open year-round and now we have a heated indoor shed."

Shed 5 floors are now heated and its doors are reinforced and better suited for keeping the heat in during cold-weather months.

Adding to the Shed 5 experience is the DTE Energy Foundation Plaza. The newly-landscaped public outdoor space on the Russell Street side of the shed will feature special events and entertainment and likely food trucks and other vendors. Also new to Shed 5 is the Kid Rock Kitchen Commons, a large room dedicated for meeting space that can be rented for parties, exercise classes, and other uses. Green Collar Foods has installed a vertical indoor growing system.

One of the biggest additions to Shed 5 is the community kitchen. It's a fully licensed commercial-grade kitchen available to small food businesses and entrepreneurs. The facilities will allow Detroit Kitchen Connect, a group that connects local entrepreneurs with its network of kitchens, to increase capacity and accept more small businesses into its program. A number of Eastern Market vendors, including Chez Chloe and Five Star Cake Company, have come through the Detroit Kitchen Connect program.

Writer: MJ Galbraith

For every \$100 spent in locally owned business, \$68 returns to the community

source: the350project.net

In business and development, it's a family affair

Continued from front page

anchors the string of stores located there, and it enjoys a steady flow of eager customers.

Now the brothers, who also own and operate Maine Street Restaurant on Jos. Campau, have purchased the shopping strip anchored by Little Caesar's Pizza.

And as usual, expect to see a major improvement in how it looks over there. Renovation of the façade is now underway.

Mario Lulgjuraj didn't want to disclose how much is being invested in the site, but it's part of a long-term strategy he and his brother have for the city.

"We like to be a part of the city," he said. "It has viability, and we're here to say."

The shopping strip is also

next-door to Maine Street, on the northern side of the Jos. Campau business district. It's this part of the district that has seen the most activity when it comes to redesign.

You can thank the Lulgjuraj brothers again for that. They also bought the building across from their restaurant where several businesses operate. The Lulgjurajs invested money into improving that building's façade.

You could say they are a two-man urban redevelopment team.

"Hopefully," Mario said, "others will follow."

You heard it building owners, the Lulgjurajs have thrown down a challenge. Anyone want to step up?

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This week at the library...

Tutoring for High School Students - Tuesdays and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. The APIA is offering tutoring for high school students and below. For more information and registration inquire at the circulation desk.

Children's Movie Night - Tuesday, May 12 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high-definition screen and enjoy a serving of popcorn. This week's feature is Bookflix: "Alexander and the Terrible Day."

Make & Take Workshop - Wednesday, May 13 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to an arts and crafts workshop. This week's theme is "Youth Art."

Family Story Time for Children - Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m. Join your

friends at the library for a reading of a storybook for children "A Day With No Crayons." This is part of the Michigan Reads Program.

An Evening with Author, Barbara Rylko-Bauer - Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. The Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Humanities Council, Meijer and Michigan Center for the Book are sponsoring the book tour for Barbara Rylko-Bauer, a medical anthropologist whose writing focuses on health care inequalities, applied anthropology, political violence, the Holocaust and intimate ethnography. The Hamtramck Library has been selected as part of the tour. More information about this Michigan author and May 14 program can be

found on the Library Web Page.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

Common Word Alliance of Hamtramck - Monday, May 25 at 7 p.m. The Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will hold its monthly meeting at the Library. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

Second Front Page

City council candidate faces questions over plans for shopping center

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Karen Majewski has a question for one of the candidates running for city council.

She would like to know what Mohamed Alsomiri plans to do with a building he owns in the middle of the Jos. Campau business district, the former Shoppers World store.

“He has owned the building for about two years and in that time the building has done nothing but deteriorate,” she said recently on her Facebook page. “Maybe voters should ask him what he is doing to revitalize Hamtramck. Feet to the fire.”

The vacant building is the largest commercial structure in the city, and has fallen into disrepair.

Alsomiri, in an interview with The Review, said it’s a matter of money. He said he has a long list of updates and improvements to make, starting with a city-required indoor sprinkler system.

Next on his list he said is a new electrical system and heating unit.

After that he said he will work on other improvements inside, and hopes to transform the building into a wedding hall rental.



The owner of the former Shoppers World is a candidate for city council, and there are questions about what he plans to do with the building besides letting it sit vacant.

“The market is down. I have to do something different,” Alsomiri said.

He also asked for other ideas for the building.

As for the condition of the outside of the building, he said that will have to wait. In the meantime, he said, it’s no worse than “when you close down a house.”

He is running for one of three seats on council.

The Review also asked City Manager Katrina Powell and Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, about the status of the building.

Angerer replied in an email: “No improvement per-

turn the second floor of the two-story building into apartments for seniors.

The ground floor would have been redesigned for commercial use. However, that plan met opposition from some in the community. The plan eventually fell apart.

At one time it was the city’s largest store and part of a regional department store chain called Federal’s.

As that chain began to go bankrupt a fire broke out in the building. It was later taken over by another chain, Shoppers World.

Under Alsomiri’s ownership a small fire broke out in the building a couple of years ago but that caused just a small amount of damage.

Mayor Majewski said in her Facebook post that there is no reason for the building’s continued shabby condition.

“Mr. Alsomiri supposedly has plans in the works for this building,” she said. “That doesn’t prevent him from maintaining it, proceeding with basic renovations, and keeping it cleaned up. He could even have art in the windows in the meantime. There is no excuse for the state it is in now.”



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May 10 - Mother's Day Breakfast & Family Photos
May 13 - May Devotion 7 p.m.

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Come join us for a 3 mile walk/run through the streets of Hamtramck to celebrate being active and healthy!

Date: Saturday, May 9
Time: Hike will begin at 9:30AM
Where: Hike will begin and end at Hamtramck Community Center
This is a FREE event and open to ALL ages
Registration for t-shirts begins at 8:30AM



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Voters say 'no' to road repair tax

Continued from front page

endorsed the state proposal, but in its defeat even he conceded it was too complex for voters to rally around.

Snyder has said he and the legislature will make funding road repairs a top priority in the months to come.

There have been several other options floated in recent weeks, but nothing concrete.

Municipal leaders are worried that the next plan may include reducing state revenue, something many communities – including Hamtramck – won't be able

to afford.

The next election date for Hamtramck is Aug. 4 when a primary will be held to whittle down the number of city council candidates vying for three seats. Six out of the nine candidates seeking office will then square off in the November General Election.

Also on the August ballot will be the public school's millage renewal proposal, which was shot down in a special election in February. The school district is seeking the renewal of 18 tax mills for its general operation.



School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School NJHS celebrates Earth Day

To show support for protecting the Earth, Kosciuszko Middle School's National Junior Honor Society came together as a team to celebrate Earth Day.

On April 22, 25 KMS students met after school and collected trash from around Kosciuszko's campus. The students worked as a team after school and collected about three trash bags of garbage. The KMS National Junior Honor Society has made a promise that each year, they will dedicate service hours to help make the Earth a cleaner planet.



Kosciuszko Middle School students who are members of the National Junior Honor Society recently cleaned up litter around the school.



Horizon High School students also participated in a clean-up sponsored by the Common Word Alliance.



Hamtramck High School students who are in Advanced Placement Physics recently took a three-hour final exam.

diligently in helping to develop both of the girls' talents and playing ability, which has helped colleges notice Hamtramck from an athletic standpoint once again.

Horizon High School

The following students volunteered their time last Saturday and participated in the Common Word Alliance city clean up: Farzana Begum, Melvin Seatts, Rezwana Ahmed, Alona Gray, Shaiann McVey, Fairuz Yasmin and Shakawat Islam.

All Schools

- Saturday, May 9 – Hamtramck Health Hike registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the community center. Health Hike starts at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 12 – Spring District Wide Fine Arts Program at 6 p.m. in the Community Center. It will be a wonderful presentation of our talented students. We hope to see you there.
- Thursday, May 14 – Progress Report #4 distributed.

Hamtramck High School

- Thursday, May 14 – Hamtramck High School Music concert at 6 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Dickinson East Elementary School

- Thursday, May 14 – The Dolphin of the Month party
- Continued on page 5

Join us for a Walk?

Spring 2015 Walk-And-Talks

The Hamtramck Walkers Alliance is coordinating a series of town hall-style walks designed to bring residents from all backgrounds in Hamtramck together for free, healthy, non-alcoholic and secular activities that encourage interaction among neighbors and engagement in the Hamtramck community.

Join us for one or all of our Thursday evening walks this spring from April 16-May 21. Each walk will be led by a weekly "Walking Champion," a local person of interest who will be available to answer questions and to provide information.

April 16 Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski

April 23 Community & Economic Development Director Kathy Angerer

April 30 Detroit City Football Club

May 7 Historian Greg Kowalski (Meet at Hamtramck History Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau St.)

Thursdays at 6p.m. 1-2 mile walk Free!

May 14 Councilman Anam Miah

May 21 Musician and Business Owner Richie Wohlfell (followed by a neighborhood jam session)

Meet at Zussman Park across from City Hall (unless otherwise noted)

For more information, please visit the Hamtramck Walkers Alliance Facebook Page.



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

This election season is missing one thing: candidates

Where are the candidates? This year's election for city council attracted very few candidates, which is surprising when you consider three seats will be on the ballot. In past elections we have seen numerous candidates come out. This year we have a paltry nine candidates. Where did everyone go? One theory has it that since the council has little or no decision making authority, what's the point? That is a compelling argument to make. Unfortunately, it is true that the city council has been sidelined while the city transitions back to local control.

It's the city manager and the state's Transition Advisory Board who are in control. We're not sure why that is since it was the city council who asked for the state to intervene when a financial crisis hit. The council at that time did the responsible thing. When the emergency manager left about four months ago, she put strict limitations on the city council. There is also another explanation for such a low interest in public office: It's not worth the abuse. Hamtramck's politics are known to be rough, which understandably is a turnoff to

those who might be interested in running for public office. When the state decided to install an emergency manager it was noted that the city had a "toxic" political environment. That's something we all need to work on. While that toxic environment didn't directly lead to the city financial meltdown, it was a contributing factor. Hamtramck is out of a financial emergency, but apparently there are enough people who believe we still have a hostile political environment. That may prove to be a legacy we can't shake off.

Odds & Ends

Correction ... Last week's notification of the May 5 special election had the wrong heading on it, saying it was about the Hamtramck Public Schools' millage renewal. The election on Tuesday was actually for the state proposal to raise the sales tax to support road repairs. That proposal failed. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Ongoing ... The online fundraiser for Pope Park renovations is still continuing. As of Thursday, the committee sponsoring the fundraiser reported \$7,900 had been donated. The goal is to collect at least \$25,000 by June 1, which at that point the Michigan Economic Develop-



ment Corporation will kick in a matching grant of \$25,000. To help out, go online to: https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope_park_renovation_hamtramck Or, if you just want to send

in a check, that will work, too. To do so, make a check out to the Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Park Committee, and mail it to that group at: P.O. Box 12248, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

Get a kick out of soccer? The city has a deal for you

Plans are still in the works to bring the Detroit City Football Club to Hamtramck. Organizers are securing funding to move the team to Keyworth Stadium, hopefully by next season. In the meantime, you can get a glimpse of the popular soccer team that now calls Cass Tech home. Thousands of fans have been selling out the Cass Tech stadium for their favorite team, Le Rouge. And now the City of Hamtramck, through its Community & Economic Development Department, is offering residents a special deal. The next soccer match is May 15, and the city is offering free admission and a bus ride to Cass

Tech to see the game. Kathy Angerer, Director of Community and Economic Development, is coordinating the event on behalf of the city. Most of the free tickets are reserved for local school-age soccer players but there are a limited number of tickets for residents. "Soccer is a popular and beloved sport in Hamtramck and partnering with the Detroit City Football Club and Flagstar Bank for this event will be a memorable experience for our youth," Angerer said. "The City of Hamtramck is proud to join with these fine organizations to let our students watch an exciting Le Rouge match at Cass Tech Stadium."

Attending the event will be members of the Hamtramck Warriors Soccer Club and student athletes and supporters from the Hamtramck Public Schools high school and middle school soccer teams. *There are a limited number of extra tickets still available by calling Kathy Angerer at (313) 876-7700, extension 326.*

Get Out
on the
Hamtown!



School Bell

Continued from page 4

will be held. We are honoring students who have demonstrated fairness throughout their school day for the month of April. The students will receive a certificate and will be invited to watch a movie and have a snack.

Dickinson East Multicultural Celebration

The Multicultural Celebration that will be taking place on Tuesday, June 2 has been part of the many wonderful events at Dickinson East Elementary School. This year's celebration will mark the 16th year as a much anticipated and cherished event for years.

The very first Multicultural Celebration began with a pot-luck, buffet-style dinner. Our parents and staff brought in the favorite ethnic foods and the quality and variety of foods was remarkable. The festivities continued onto the playground. The entertainment was varied and highly enjoyable and centered on the diverse cultures that our school had to offer.

This year's celebration starts off with an ice cream social that will surely be enjoyed by all. The entertainment will include many songs and dances from our African American, Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Bosnian, Indian and Polish students who will be performing as they wear ethnic style clothing representative of their culture.

Everyone is excited about this event and is welcomed to come join the celebration. The administration, staff and students hope to see



Hamtramck High School basketball teammates Shana Risby (left) and Leijla Masinovic signed up to play college ball next year. Risby will play for Wayne County Community College and Masinovic will play for Marygrove.

you there

Remember the date: Tuesday, June 2, 5:30-7 p.m. on Dickinson East School playground. Bring a folding chair, enjoy the ice cream and the bountiful entertainment.

Upcoming Events

- Kosciuszko Middle School and Dickinson West Elementary School
- Tuesday, May 19 – Parent Care Association Meeting from 3:15-4 p.m.

Kosciuszko Middle School

- Tuesday, May 19 – Curriculum Night from 4 to 6 p.m. Come and learn how to use the data from the NWEA test that your child took to gain a better understanding of your child's growth over the school year and how to help them continue to grow throughout the summer. Snacks will be provided.

Early Childhood Elementary School

- Thursday, May 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. there will be an art show of student work. The students were inspired by their trip to The Detroit Institute of Arts to hold their own art show. Each class will pick an artist's style to imitate and create their own masterpiece in that style. Student work will be displayed and there will be a short musical performance by our second graders. Refreshments will be served and the students will get to make an art project during the program.

Athletic Events

- Tuesday, May 12 – Kosciuszko Boy's Baseball vs. River Rouge at 4:30 p.m., Home.



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May 27, 6pm

Copies of the Budget for the listed Public School Academy will be available at the school office.

Arts festival highlights Hamtramck's border with Detroit

**By Mike Murphy
Special to The Review**

Exploring Hamtramck/Detroit borders both physically and culturally will be the main agenda on May 16 and 17 when Detroit-based performance company The Hinterlands hosts its premier Porous Borders Festival.

The festival opens at 11 a.m. Saturday with a parade down the length of Carpenter Street followed by performances and artist installations located along many points of the Detroit/Hamtramck border. There will also be 10 other non-artist community projects, such as a talk on the history of the Hamtramck/Detroit border presented by Hamtramck Museum Curator and Historian, Greg Kowalski.

In addition, local artist and organizer Marsha Music will tell stories about organizing

Dodge-Main workers. Her presentation will be accompanied by films focused on Dodge Main.

So what is and what isn't the Detroit/Hamtramck border?

For festival co-directors Liza Bielby and Richard Newman, who moved to a home in Detroit just outside Hamtramck about five years ago, the question doesn't always come with an easy answer.

"I live just north of the border on the Detroit side, and people think it's Hamtramck," said Newman, who said his own confusion over the question led him and Bielby to take walks tracing the geographical border, which in turn led the Hinterlands co-directors to think about the cultural borders that exist in the area.

"The festival is a way to explore these different kinds of borders and we hope to

spur conversation through the festival and also afterward," Newman said. "Our interest is in getting to know more about our neighborhoods."

Newman said the festival was not geared specifically to relative newcomers to the area and that other parts of the Detroit area, including Canada, will be represented.

"Some of the other artists have lived here their whole

life," Newman said.

Newman said the festival project is part of a series of projects planned by the Carpenter Street community, which includes Popp's Packing and other partners in the Carpenter Exchange.

A schedule and map of the festival will be available approximately one week before the event at various locations in Hamtramck and Detroit.

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The
Review
Hamtramck



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers April 28-May 3.

Tuesday, April 28

- A break-in occurred at a residence in the 11700 block of Sobieski where guns, ammo and jewelry were stolen.
 - A resident in the 12000 block of Selfridge reported the theft of their 2003 Chevy Trailblazer.
 - A resident reported damage to the rear door of her residence.
 - At 9:30 a.m. a person reported being robbed at gunpoint by two men while on Jos. Campau just north of Caniff. One of the suspects implied he had a gun and the other took \$450 out of the victim's pocket.
 - A man reported being assaulted while in a bar on Jos. Campau.
 - A man reported someone used his Social Security number to file an income tax return.
 - A man was seen walking on Belmont toward Jos. Campau carrying a black handgun with silver duct tape around the handle. Officers did not locate the suspect.
 - A man was arrested for assaulting a co-worker.
- Wednesday, April 29**
- At almost 1 a.m. a resident was arrested for drunk driving. The driver had a blood-alcohol content three times over the legal limit.
 - At 3 a.m. two residents were questioned after officers noticed they were checking out a cell phone store on Jos. Campau.
 - At a little after 3 a.m. officers investigated a house in the 2600 block of Edwin where a family was squatting.
 - At 4:30 a.m. three men were seen on the roof of a party store in the 2400 block of Holbrook. The suspects ran away

before officers arrived, but two of them were later apprehended, thanks to tips from neighbors. Stolen items were found in nearby yards.

- At 1 p.m. a person was arrested for being disorderly following a disturbance at Jos. Campau and Poland.
- A business owner at 3901 Christopher reported a man left his bar without paying his bill.
- A Detroit resident was arrested at Jos. Campau and Whalen for being disorderly and possessing an open bottle of liquor.
- A business owner in the 3000 block of Caniff reported the theft of his cell phone. Surveillance footage showed the suspect to be a man in his 20s wearing a red and gray North-face jacket, black pants and red shoes.
- A resident was arrested for driving without a license and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

Thursday, April 30

- At a little after 12:30 a.m. a man reported the theft of his license plate.
 - A woman who previously reported a family member had taken her cell phone without permission had returned it.
 - At about 4:30 a.m. a resident was arrested after refusing to pay her \$11.10 cab fare.
- Friday, May 1**
- At 10 p.m. a Warren man was carjacked while stopped at Trowbridge and Conant. The victim said a man with a gun approached his car, opened the door and forced him out of the driver's seat. Two other men got into the car and drove off.
 - At 12:30 a.m. a Redford resident was cited during a traffic stop for driving with no insurance and possessing narcotic paraphernalia.
 - A resident in the 12000 block of Selfridge reported someone stole her license plate and replaced it with another one.

- At 2 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after being pulled over for driving without headlights on. The car had been reported as stolen. The suspect was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle and driving without a license.

- At about 6 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after a car chase. The driver was arrested on a number of charges including being wanted on warrants in two other communities.
- Also at about 6 a.m. a Goodson resident was arrested after a foot chase through several yards for fleeing and eluding, obstruction and driving without a license.

- A Charest resident reported someone used her identity to open a credit card and made purchases in her name.

- A Dyar resident reported a relative withdrew money using her debit card and also took her Bridge card.

- A resident found a brown leather Coach purse near Gallagher and Holbrook. The purse belonged to a Hazel Park woman.

- A Rochester Hills resident reported someone he knows took \$80 out of his wallet.

Saturday, May 2

- Officers responded to a residence in the 2300 block of Commor where a false 911 call was made.

- At about midnight officers took a report about a car window being shot out in the 12000 block of Sobieski.

- A Danforth resident was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident after he struck a house on Andrus.

- A landlord reported his rental dwelling on Evaline was broken into by former tenants.

Sunday, May 3

- At 11 p.m. officers took a report regarding a sexual assault that occurred in the 9300 block of McDougall.

- At 10 a.m. a woman reported the theft of her cell phone and purse while she was at McDonald's.

- A Novi resident reported being robbed at gunpoint while at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

Obituaries

NAUMOVSKA

Toda Naumovska, 56, died May 4, 2015.

Mrs. Naumovska is survived by her husband, Chris; son, Bobby; sisters, Cveta, Lena, Jagoda; brother, Trajce (Lena). Funeral services were held Thursday, May 7, at St. Mary's Macedonian Orthodox Church with burial at White Chapel Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home.

ZARSKI

Caroline Zarski (nee Lazarecki), 92, died April 4, 2015.

Mrs. Zarski was born January 28, 1923. She was the wife of the late Leon. Mrs. Zarski was the loving mother of Valentine (Richard) Gokenbach, Martin (Laura), Susan (Andrew) Lorio, and Janice; beloved grandmother of Richard, Nicole, Jeremy, Jared, Alyssa, Joseph, Stephanie, Philip; grandmother of Abby, Zach, Carley, Quinn, Charlotte, Eleanor.

Caroline was born and raised in Hamtramck. She was a retired schoolteacher who taught for many years at Our Lady Queen of Apostles School. After retiring, she was a substitute teacher in Hamtramck Catholic Schools.

Mrs. Zarski was a Grammy award winning song writer who wrote the lyrics for her late husband's songs. Together they won two Grammy awards.

She was very active in Our Lady Queen of Apostles School and Church. Both she and her husband were very active in the City of Hamtramck. Together they worked closely with the Hamtramck Police in the 1950's and 1960's, creating the Quacky Walker series, a safety program cartoon series that was distributed to all the schools in the city.

Caroline and Leon were the creators of Polish American Night at Tiger Stadium which is still one of the largest events for the Detroit Tigers, and the Polish Sports Hall of Fame.

Memorial visitation will take place Friday, May 8, at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck, MI., from 2 – 7 p.m. A Memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant, Hamtramck, MI, on Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow the Mass at the Polish American Cultural Center in Troy from 12 – 3 p.m.

Interment will be with her husband Leon at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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Coming events

SATURDAY, May 9, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 11 a.m. – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at Queen of Apostles Activity Center, on Harold. Fenced-in parking.

WEDNESDAY, May 20, 7 p.m. – Join the Midtown Block Club! Attend our next scheduled meeting in St. Florian's convent, 2626 Florian, across from the church. A guest speaker will participate in our discussion. We meet the third Wednesday of each month. The Midtown Block Club works for promoting community safety, stewardship, service and social events. Add your voice on any neighborhood concern.

WEDNESDAY, May 20, noon – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will host bunco social, featuring prizes and share the wealth, \$7 admission, includes lunch at Queen of Apostles Activity Center, on Harold. Fenced-in parking.

MONDAY, May 25, 10 a.m. – The Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host a Memorial Day Service at St. Ladislaus Church (2700 Caniff). A reception will follow at PLAV Post 10 hall (11824 Jos. Campau).

THURSDAY, May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – A fundraiser for Detroit Friendship House, which serves hundreds of local folks who are able to stock up on needed food supplies. The fundraiser is \$25 and will be held at the Fowling Warehouse, located at 3901 Christopher here in Hamtramck. The event includes two hours of free fowling, food and a T-shirt. To get tickets, go online to: www.detroitfriendshiphouse.org.

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The lore of Hamtramck ...

The Strange death of Thomas X. Dombrowski

By Greg Kowalski

Thomas X. Dombrowski was a Communist. He never denied it. In fact he ran for U.S. Congress in 1940 on the Communist Party ticket.

It was a time before the Communists fell out of favor among the many laborers who initially supported them in America, including Polish immigrants.

Dombrowski was among those auto workers, at least for a while. Born in 1917, he grew up in Cleveland before coming to the Detroit area where he worked at the old Packard plant. He eventually left the assembly line and became editor of the Glos Ludowy, a Communist newspaper that was banned from sales on the streets of Detroit.

Dombrowski apparently had become associated with the Communists while studying at the universities in Warsaw and Krakow. Back in America, he earned a degree in Ohio, and with the Communist Party was sent to work with the auto unions as an "Educational Director."

In those days, the Communists were viewed differently. Although they stood firmly against capitalism they also fought for workers' rights and demanded equality for women and minorities. The workers found them to be allies in their struggles for better pay and working conditions.

That view would change substantially after World War II, especially among the Poles, who watched the Soviets pillage and enslave Poland in the

wake of the Nazi occupation.

Before the full extent of the Soviet damage was done, Dombrowski ran for Congress on the Community Party ticket. He also ran for Hamtramck Common Council in 1944 and 1946 but lost both times, although once just narrowly.

By the mid-1950s, the Communists had largely fallen out of favor. They had been denounced by the auto unions and hounded continually by the FBI. Numerous raids were conducted at the old Workmen's Hall on Yemans, which was Dombrowski's election headquarters.

For Dombrowski the end came in May, 1956, while he was in New York at the Polonia Club, a social center where a group of 50 Polish-Americans

were being welcomed after returning from a tour of Poland sponsored by the Glos Ludowy.

During the festivities, two armed men stormed into the hall and ordered the people at

people, including Dombrowski, who was shot in the chest (or abdomen, accounts vary). Another man was also shot in the abdomen and a third was hit twice in the head. He and Dombrowski died.


The gunmen fled without taking anything. They were

browski was disillusioned with the Communist Party and was assassinated by agents on direct orders from Moscow. They might have feared that he was close to becoming an informer for the FBI. Certainly the circumstances of the attack were strange, having occurred in a hall filled with people.

There may be more to this case buried somewhere in the files of the FBI, but we likely will never see them, so his death is likely to remain clouded by questions.

Adding to the odd circumstances is that Dombrowski was killed on May 31, 1956, exactly 26 days after he was married to Estella Nowakowski, who had worked at the newspaper.

You can learn more of Hamtramck's fascinating history at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.



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The Communist Party was extremely active in Hamtramck for decades, as this flier from the 1934 city election attests.

tending to line up against a wall. Some of the guests turned on the gunmen and attacked them.

They responded by firing a hail of bullets, hitting three

never caught. In fact, it was claimed that the case wasn't even investigated. But someone did take the guest book from the event.

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